



GAME IS UP

As investment fraud cases soar, police manage to crack open one case by tracking bank accounts

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NO CHILD'S PLAY

**Over last three years,
State records 1,465
child marriages of which
719 occurred in this
financial year**

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6

Potholes don't just pose accident risk; they also contribute big-time to city's air pollution, study has revealed. As vehicles move over the pits, plumes of dust cloud the air we breathe

POLLUTION PITS LEAVING CITY DONE & DUSTED

PM10 levels high in some areas, CSTEP study shows

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

The crumbling roads of Bengaluru, marked by potholes, are not just endangering the lives of commuters, but are also contributing significantly to environmental pollution, a report has revealed. Dust from the city's damaged roads has led to a sharp increase in air pollution levels, the study said.

The negligence of BBMP officials and substandard roadwork have left most of the city's roads riddled with potholes. Asphalt has peeled off in many places, and vehicular movement kicks up excessive dust, making it difficult for commuters and residents to breathe. The suspended dust particles in the air have exceeded permissible levels, with potholes contributing a staggering 16.9% to the city's air pollution, according to reports.

A study conducted by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) in collaboration with the Center for Study for Science and Technology Policy (CSTEP) has highlighted the primary sources of Bengaluru's air pollution. Reports



“Transport emerged as the largest contributor at 50.6%, followed by road dust at 16.9%, construction and demolition activities at 5.9%, and waste burning at 0.1%

—Eshwar Khandre, Environment Minister

from the city's 11 continuous ambient air monitoring stations show that while most parameters are within national limits,

PM10 levels are alarmingly high in several areas. Based on the Air Quality Index (AQI), air quality is classified into six categories:

Good, Satisfactory, Moderate, Poor, Very Poor, and Severe. Key pollutants such as

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Life is not a gamble

**Lives lost, families devastated
by online gambling games
as legislators discuss ways
to stop the scourge**



| Sanjana CS
c-sanjana.s@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Maharani Cluster University hostel was all but empty over the long weekend. This turned out to be ideal for 19-year-old Pavana, who had decided to do the unthinkable during the time when no one was around. On Sunday, the first-year BSc student ended her life.

A death note was found in the room. Police investigations have revealed that Pavana was driven to this step as she was overwhelmed by financial pressure due to losses she had incurred in online rummy. The student who hailed from Kolar had developed an addiction to the game and had lost even the 15,000 her parents had given her for her college fees.

The lethality of these highly addictive gambling sites cannot be much more clearer. As per a response in the Assembly on Tuesday, six people have died by suicide due to the devastating consequences of online rummy. Among them, five hailed from Bengaluru, while one was from Vijayanagar.

Karnataka Home Minister G. Parameshwara told the House the scourge of online gaming has gripped the youth, leaving them vulnerable to financial ruin and emotional despair. "Innocent youths are falling prey to this menace, and their lives are being irreversibly impacted," he said during a intense debate on the issue.

A few months ago, this scourge

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THINGS TO DO

01 Art fest

The India Art Festival—a vibrant celebration of art and creativity, showcasing the paintings and sculptural work of 350 artists in diverse artistic styles across 100 booths with 1500 paintings and sculptures on display. Enjoy fusion shows, including live music, art performances, and painting demos on all days. **Venue:** Kings Court, Gate No 5, Palace Grounds; **When:** December 19 to 22, 11 am to 8 pm



02 Convocation day

Alliance University, South India's first private university is hosting its 13th Convocation Ceremony for the outgoing batch of 2023–2024. Chief Guest: PS Sreedharan Pillai, Governor of Goa, along with guest of honours and special invitees. **Where:** Alliance University – Central Campus; **When:** December 22, 9 am onwards

03 Laugh out loud

What could go wrong if a middle-class guy is put up in a five-star hotel? Find out in Saikiran Checks In- Standup Comedy Performance by Saikiran. A comedy show with incisive observations, outrageous anecdotes and pretentious social commentary. **Where:** Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; **When:** December 21, 7:30 pm

04 Fantasy tales

Enchanted Tales in Fantasyland by Aparna Jaishankar: A delightful, interactive oral storytelling event crafted especially for young dreamers and their families. **Where:** Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; **When:** December 22, 6 pm



05 Handicraft mela

Meena Bazar: exhibition and sale of arts, handicrafts, and handloom products. With over 100 stalls, the fair is a treasure trove of handcrafted goods for people of all age groups, providing an opportunity to purchase directly from the artisans. **Where:** Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath; **When:** Until December 29, 10 am to 8 pm

Can FIR be quashed on victim, witness records? HC asks BSY

During hearing of sexual assault case, Counsel says 6 witnesses have refuted claim, only victim has raised allegation

Rachana Ramesh
c-rachana.ramesh
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Karnataka High Court on Wednesday emphasised that victim statements recorded by magistrates hold greater significance in criminal proceedings compared to witness statements documented by investigating authorities. The Court clarified that neither type of statement is considered conclusive until scrutinised during trial proceedings. Justice M Nagaprasanna made these remarks whilst hearing a petition from former Karnataka Chief Minister and BJP leader BS Yediyurappa, who sought to nullify the FIR against him regarding alleged sexual assault of a minor girl in February 2023.

Senior Counsel CV Nagesh, representing Yediyurappa, informed the Court that approximately six witnesses had told investigators that no incident occurred on the specified date. Nagesh highlighted that only the victim's statement contained allegations against Yediyurappa, arguing against its absolute acceptance. The Court explained that whilst statement veracity is determined during trial, victim statements receive greater consideration as magistrates record them under Section 164 of CrPC, unlike witness statements recorded by investigators under Section 161.

The Court noted uncertain-

ty regarding conditions under which investigating authorities record witness statements. Furthermore, the Court questioned the possibility of exercising jurisdiction under Section 482 of CrPC to dismiss proceedings based solely on Section 161 and 164 statements.

Justice Nagaprasanna questioned whether a court exercising jurisdiction under Section 482 accept statements recorded under Section 161 whilst disregarding the victim's statement under Section 164. The notion of seeking complete dismissal of proceedings based on comparing statements under Sections 161 and 164 appears untenable, he said and expressed his preliminary view that quashing proceedings solely on this basis is not legally permissible. He challenged the counsel to produce any precedent where proceedings were quashed by comparing statements under Sections 161 and 164. Further arguments will continue on December 19.

'Layout plan approvals can't be declined unless acquisition notice is published'

The Karnataka HC has ruled that urban development authorities can only reject layout plan approval requests if a proper notification for land acquisition has been legally published.

Justices R Devdas and G Basavaraja dismissed the State government's appeal against a single judge's order that had directed



the Vijayapura Urban Development Authority to consider a layout plan approval request from Mahaveer Oswal and others. The court stated, "...A right would arise to the authority to decline such application only if a notification is duly published preliminarily for acquisition of the lands for formation of a scheme or a layout. The Urban Development Authority would get a right to decline such an application only if an acquisition notification is published in accordance with law." The original petitioners had approached the single judge regarding the Vijayapura Urban Development Authority's inaction on their layout plan approval application. They were informed their lands were part of a scheme under an August 13, 2010 notification, gazetted on August 26, 2010, under Sections 17(1) & 17(3) of the Karnataka Urban Development Authorities Act.

The single judge granted the petitions, noting previous similar cases where such schemes

were declared lapsed. The court ordered the State to inform all relevant authorities about the scheme's lapse. The State argued that the scheme was created under Sections 35 & 36 of the 1987 Act and the 2009 Rules, aiming to provide residential sites to those without houses. They contended that a lapsed scheme shouldn't prevent fresh land acquisition.

The bench examined the Act's provisions, particularly Sections 18 and 19, noting that no declaration under Section 19(1) was issued. They observed that the scheme's lapse was correctly determined, given that 14 years had passed since the August 2010 notification. The bench questioned the State's standing to appeal, noting the urban development authority hadn't challenged the order. They acknowledged the State's power to issue fresh acquisition notifications but maintained that without preliminary notifications, they couldn't prevent landowners from developing their property.

Celebrate season's warmth with furry friends at Cubbon Park

7th edition of Santa BowWow is set to take place on Sunday; event aims to encourage adoption, spread awareness about Indie breeds

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Santa BowWow 2024, the seventh edition of Bengaluru's beloved doggy Christmas celebration, is set to take place at Cubbon Park on Sunday. Organised by the CJ Memorial Trust and Cubbon Park Canines, this year's event will also see the relaunch of National Indie Dog Day, the 1 Million Indie Dog Club, and the Parkie Calendar by a mystery celebrity. These initiatives aim to encourage adoption and spread awareness about Indie breeds.

Focus on Indie dogs and rescues

This year, Santa BowWow highlights responsible pet parenting, adoption, and the beauty of Indie dogs and rescues. The event will feature cam-

paigns like #AdoptDontShop and #IndieProud, along with the 1 Million Indie Dog Club. "Indie dogs are strong, intelligent, and deeply loving. It's time we embrace them for the incredible companions they are," said Priya Chetty Rajagopal, trustee of the CJ Memorial Trust.

Visitors can look forward to activities like an Indie ramp walk and parade, led by fashion icon Prasad Bidapa, and special kids' sessions to help children bond with gentle pups. Festive highlights include carol singing, giveaways, and prizes, with a special focus on Indie dogs.

About Santa BowWow

Santa BowWow, which began as a way to help children connect with dogs, has grown into a cherished tradition that celebrates the unique bond between kids and their furry friends. "It is about love, compassion, and creating a space where children and families learn to celebrate



'Indie dogs are strong, intelligent, and loving. It's time we embrace them for the incredible companions they are' (Glimpses of Santa BowWow)

"This event is uplifting, joyful, and all about magic of dogs and children"

– Prasad Bidapa, supporter of the event

and respect dogs," she said.

Prasad Bidapa, a supporter of the event, said, "The work of CJ Memorial Trust and Cubbon Park Canines is truly inspiring. This event is uplifting, joyful, and all about the magic of dogs and children." The initiative is also supported by FIAP and Humane Society Intl.

"Santa BowWow is not just an event; it's a movement to celebrate the joy and unconditional love that dogs bring into our lives," added Rajagopal.

Bank accounts tracked, fraudulent ring busted

As 3,010 investment fraud cases recorded this year, in one case police make quick breakthrough, arrest 10

Sanjana S
c-sanjana.s@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Investment fraud cases have skyrocketed from just 183 in 2022 to a staggering 3,010 in 2024, exposing a deepening crisis in online financial security. In a recent breakthrough, 10 people were arrested for their involvement in a complex fraud scheme, which saw millions of rupees transferred through deceptive online transactions.

Bengaluru's CEN Police Station arrested the individuals who allegedly swindled over ₹88 lakh from an unsuspecting investor. The complaint, filed on November 11 by a Mahalakshmi Layout resident, revealed a scheme that involved fake investment opportunities linked to stock market advertisements on Facebook.

According to the complainant, he had come across a seemingly legitimate stock investment ad on a Facebook page, promoting the 'BRANDYWINE GROUP' and 'ES BRANDYWINE GROUP MARKETING'. Intrigued by the promise of high returns by transferring funds through the app, the complainant



downloaded the app and joined a Whatsapp group. He followed the instructions on the app. Between October 4 and November 9, he made a series of transactions, transferring a staggering ₹88,83,000 into various bank accounts given to him by the fraudsters. After realising he had been duped, the man filed a complaint at Cen Police Station.

Big breakthrough

CEN Police soon obtained information about the bank accounts into which the money had been transferred. On December 12, officials swooped in on a location on 1st Main Road, Yeshwantpur, arresting 10 people linked to the fraudulent network. Officials also seized 15 mobile phones, two laptops.

When the accused were interrogated, they admitted to their involvement in the fraud. Court sent seven of the accused

to judicial custody and the remaining three were in police custody for seven days. The three were quizzed further and they revealed that their motive was to make quick money. They had set up a sophisticated scam to exploit individuals eager to invest in stock markets. Two of the accused were found to have offices in Tyagarajanagar and Sadashivanagar.

On December 13, police raided an office run by one of the suspects. Seized items included eight mobile phones, two CPUs, 78 passbooks, 164 SIM cards, 20 debit cards, 48 bank account QR codes, and several other items. Just a day later, the other office was raided and 28 mobile phones, 30 passbooks, 316 SIM cards, 7 debit cards, and a wealth of documents were seized.

These items provided substantial evidence against the suspects, painting a picture of a large-scale scam that had

affected hundreds of people across Bengaluru.

B D a y a n a n d a , Commissioner of Police, provided further insight into the mechanics of these scams, explaining that the victims are often drawn in by promises of quick returns. "Many fall prey to the fraud without realising they're being exploited. The criminals prey on individuals interested in stock market investments, manipulating them through WhatsApp

groups and fake apps. Once the victim is roped in, they're shown an inflated account balance to entice further investments, only to find their funds inaccessible when they attempt to withdraw," he said.

The fraud ring's reach is believed to extend beyond Bengaluru, with the kingpins reportedly operating out of Dubai. The probe uncovered that over 1,467 NCRP complaints have been linked to these types of fraud.

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Govt plans 3 new animal crematoria in Bengaluru

Electric crematoria for animals aim to address concerns of pet parents and activists; activists stress 24/7 operations and improved waste management to curb health and environmental risks

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Good news awaits pet parents and animal activists seeking a dignified, hassle-free farewell for their pets. Until now, they had to travel to Sumanahalli in Bengaluru South, where the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) built an electric crematorium for animals in 2015 at Rs 2.50 crore. While convenient for residents of Bengaluru South and nearby areas, it posed challenges for pet parents from regions like Yelahanka, Mahadevapura, Dasarahalli, and others, who found it difficult to transport their pets' remains to Sumanahalli.

Revenue Minister Krishne Gowda, on behalf of Deputy Chief Minister DK Shiva Kumar, stated that the government planned to construct three electric crematoria for stray and pet dogs at Shettihalli in Dasarahalli Zone and Yelahanka and Medihalli in Bengaluru East. While replying to a query from Shivajinagar MLA Rizwan Arshad, the Revenue Minister said the government has identified locations for constructing electric crematoria for stray and pet dogs.

Animal activists and pet parents have welcomed the government's decision to construct crematoria for animals. "CJ Memorial Trust launched an online petition in April 2018 demanding two more animal cremation facilities. We are happy with the government announcement on identifying locations to construct electric crematoriums. We urge authorities to operate the existing electric crematorium round the clock. Currently, it runs only from 9 am to 5 pm, which is impractical as pet deaths cannot be confined to these hours. Additionally, hiring freezers has become an expensive



Animal crematorium in Sumanahalli

burden for pet parents. The crematorium should be free for animal shelters. We have been pursuing this issue for all these years," said Priya Chetty-Rajagopal of CJ Memorial Trust. Nevina Kamath, Secretary of Action for Animal Justice said the proposal to create more animal crematoria in other zones is widely welcomed by pet owners, street animal caretakers and rescuers, veterinary institutions and animal welfare organisations alike. "Very often, owners and caretakers are forced to arrange for carcass disposal locally, as the one existing designated animal crematorium was just too far away. Especially in the case of animals that have succumbed to deadly viral and bacterial infections, safe disposal by incineration is required to contain the risk," said Nevina Kamath.

She said that it is an open secret that carcasses of unclaimed animals found on the roads were just dumped by the Municipal trucks

Burying carcasses of large animals is a viable option. I urge govt to bear cost of wooden bier needed to cremate large carcasses — Arun P, activist

in landfills on the outskirts of the city, creating a hazardous situation by the spread of contagion through scavengers. "All these issues can be addressed by the addition of new facilities to the system. From an environmental point of view, safe burial is the best form of disposal as it has the lowest carbon footprint and recycles nutrients into the soil and the surrounding flora," she said.

Meanwhile, Arun Prasad, an animal activist, said that an electric crematorium is not viable for cremating the carcasses of large animals. "Burying carcasses of large animals is a vi-

able option. I want the government to bear the cost of the wooden bier needed to cremate carcasses," Arun Prasad said.

Sujaya Jagadish, a member of SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) said that it is high time the authorities identify land for pet crematoriums and Animal Birth Control (ABC) centres in Bengaluru. "The non-utilisation of the allocated budget in 2023 and the lack of infrastructure pose serious health risks, including zoonotic diseases. Currently, there is no count of the number of animal deaths, nor is it known where and how the bodies are being disposed of. The current practice of mixing carcasses with solid waste management (SWM) is very dangerous. It's time for a humane and scientific approach to animal waste management in our city. The Government must immediately pay heed to this issue," Sujaya Jagadish said.

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Footpath blocked

Marathahalli



Solar panels are blocking the footpath near Marathahalli Market.

Road repairs

Malleswaram



Two months ago, water pipe repairs at 11th Main, 17th A Cross, Malleswaram left a mud-filled hole surrounded by barricades, creating inconvenience.

Transport and dust are major polluters

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

PM2.5, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, and ammonia are measured to determine air quality levels.

Transport and dust are the major contributors of air pollution in the city. During the recent Assembly session, the Karnataka government has acknowledged minor air pollution issues in Bengaluru caused by vehicle emissions, resuspended road dust, and the increasing pace of construction activities. During a reply, Forest and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre said that the 2023-24 report from the city's 11 continuous ambient air monitoring stations indicates that all air quality indicators, except for PM10, are within national standards.

The measurements reveal that PM2.5, sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), and ammonia (NH₃) levels are well below their respective thresholds of 50.0 µg/m³, 40.0 µg/m³, and 100.0 µg/m³. "A study conducted in collaboration with the CSTEP Bengaluru, identified key contributors to the city's air pollution. Transport emerged as the largest contributor at 50.6%, followed by road dust at 16.9%, construction and demolition activities at 5.9%, and waste burning at 0.1%. Industries were found to contribute minimally," he said.

Based on these findings, the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has developed and revised a 44-point action plan to address the issue and mitigate pollu-

tion levels. He said that to control vehicular emissions, the KSPCB, in collaboration with the Transport Department, has conducted vehicle inspections over the past seven years (2016-2024). "Data shows compliance rates of 95.3% for petrol vehicles and 93.7% for diesel vehicles, with non-compliance rates remaining below 10%. In 2023-24 alone, 20,214 inspections were conducted to monitor emissions. While the KSPCB issues directives to relevant departments for pollution control, it lacks the authority to impose penalties," he said.

Quality slipping

Sources said that many areas in the city have seen a decline in air quality, slipping from 'Good' to 'Satisfactory,'

with some zones nearing 'Moderate' levels. Although levels of sulfur dioxide, ammonia, and nitrates are within permissible limits, PM10 levels, representing particulate matter smaller than 10 microns, have drastically increased due to urbanisation, construction activities, and road dust. Ideally, PM10 levels should not exceed 60 micrograms per cubic metre. However, in many parts of Bengaluru, these levels are far beyond the national standard. "Despite BBMP allocating thousands of crores of rupees every year for road development and maintenance, the reality is grim. Out of the city's 14,000 km of roads, finding pothole-free stretches remains a challenge," said a civic activist.

The Minister said that as part of the

National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Program (NAMP), Karnataka has established 43 manual air monitoring stations and 39 continuous ambient air quality monitoring stations across the state.

"Under the NCAP, Bengaluru, along with Hubballi-Dharwad, Kalaburagi, and Davangere, has been identified as a non-attainment city. To address this, Bengaluru has implemented a 44-point action plan, while the other cities have adopted 27-point plans to bring their air quality within acceptable limits. A 'Source Apportionment and Emission Inventory Study' for Bengaluru was conducted by CSTEP, while IIT Madras led similar studies for the other cities. The findings from these studies have been incorporated into revised action plans to control pollution effectively," he added.

New anonymous allegations suggest deeper problems in city police force

Letter alleges casteist remarks, bribery by Special Branch constable at Byatarayanapura Police Station; officer denies all claims made against him

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

If the anonymous letter against a police constable of Byatarayanapura Police Station to the Commissioner of Police is any indication, all is not well at some of the police stations in the city. The commissioner's office on Monday received an anonymous letter believed to be from an assistant sub-inspector who has alleged harassment and bribery by Hithendra, a police constable assigned special branch duty, at Byatarayanapura Police Station.

Meanwhile, Hithendra has denied the allegations made in the anonymous letter against him. "There are some policemen who are not happy with me. I did not collect any money from anyone. I never abused police constables by calling caste names. All the allegations are false," Hithendra said.

This is not the first time; recently two anonymous letters were sent against police inspectors of Sadashivanagar and Ramamurthy Nagar police stations.

Allegations cited in letter

The letter stated that Hithendra has been harassing police constables and assistant sub-inspectors by calling them caste names. An assistant sub-inspector (ASI) has alleged that Hithendra has claimed support of Union Minister V Somanna. "Hithendra told us that we (Gowdas, Muslims, Nayak, and Lamani caste people) cannot do anything as he has the support of Somanna. He said that it was Somanna who made him SB (Special Branch). He said that no one, including



Recently, 2 anonymous letters were sent to Police Commissioner (file photo)

the DCP and ACP, could do anything to him. He's used bad words against Allabaksh and Vasagerppa who were on night duty on September 21 near NICE Road," the letter read.

The letter also alleged that Hithendra had collected Rs 1,37,000 from two people who indulged in fisticuffs in April. "... Hithendra came to the spot in an inebriated condition and assured two of the accused that there will be no FIR registered if they give him money. He had compelled the accused to pay Rs 97,000 to Prasanna's (working as a cashier at Benaka Wines) account. He also collected Rs 40,000 cash from them. When questioned, he used filthy language against policemen, including an ASI."

It was further revealed that Hithendra had also allegedly collected Rs 11 lakh to close a case as an unnatural death from

the owner of Praveen Dying Works Factory situated at Pantharapalya. "... Please summon the owner of Praveen Dying Works Factory and inquire about paying money," the letter read, adding that Hithendra is known for collecting money from street vendors near Satellite Bus Station.

Probe ordered

When contacted, the DCP (West) said that an inquiry has been ordered. "An ACP officer is assigned to conduct an inquiry against the allegations made in the anonymous letter," the DCP said.

Darshan discharged from hospital

Kannada actor Darshan Thoogudeepa was on Wednesday discharged from a private hospital in Kengeri, where he had been admitted since October 30.

Sources confirmed that he left for his wife Vijayalakshmi's residence. On October 30, the High Court granted the actor interim bail for six weeks on medical grounds, following his arrest for the alleged murder of his fan. Darshan had complained of back pain. Dr Naveen Appaji Gowda, who treated Darshan, had told reporters that the actor was experiencing back and leg pain and would undergo a series of tests to determine the cause. On December 2, Dr Gowda, representing BGS Hospital, stated that Darshan was being treated for lumbar spondylolisthesis and is undergoing regular physiotherapy. Darshan needed lumbar decompression and fusion surgery, which was said to be scheduled for December 11. However, sources indicated that the surgery has not yet been performed. Dr Gowda was unavailable for comment. —PTI

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OSCAR SNUB: 'Disappointed'

ALIVE INDIA IN CONCERT SEASON 10

SCAN TO BOOK

BHEEGE HONTH TERE
O HUMDUM SUNIYO RE
SALAM NAMASTE
DIL KEH RAHA HAI
TUMSE YUN MILENGE

NEENE NEENE
NINNA KANDA KSHANADA
KHUSHIYAGIDE
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KUNAL GANJAWALLA

LIVE IN CONCERT

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HOSPITALITY PARTNER: CONRAD DRIVEN BY: KUNAL SATURDAY | 21st DECEMBER | 6PM ONWARDS AT GARUDA MALL MAGRATH ROAD IN ASSOCIATION WITH: BangaloreMirror STAY PARTNER: GINGER

TRAVEL PARTNER: TOPCORP COIN PARTNER: SP ADVERTISING AGENCY SFE PARTNER: the popcorn COIN PARTNER: Jagan Engage CatCampagna MIND PARTNER: Mind Partner PRODUCTION PARTNER: EVENT TREE Sound Systems Inc. BMS

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Karnataka records 719 child marriages this year

Karnataka records 1,465 child marriages in three years, with sharp rise in current fiscal

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

Even during advancing times, child marriages continue to rise in the state. In fact, during the last three years, the state has recorded 1,465 child marriages and 719 of these have occurred in the current fiscal year. According to the data provided by the Minister for Women and Child Development in the legislature recently, between 2021-22 and 2023-24, a total of 1,465 child marriages were recorded. The yearly breakdown reveals 418 cases in 2021-22, a decrease to 328 in 2022-23, followed by a sharp rise to 719 cases in 2023-24.

Women and Child Welfare Minister, Laxmi Hebbalkar said, "To safeguard children under the age of 18, Karnataka enforces a range of laws, including the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act of 2015, its 2021 amendments, and the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act of 2006. Additional regulations like the Karnataka Prohibition of Child Marriage Rules (2014 and 2016 amendments) and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act of 2012 also aim to prevent exploitation. The government has implemented several awareness and support programs. The 24/7 Child Helpline (1098) remains a crucial resource for immediate interventions. From August 11, 2024, the "Vatsalya Vani" series on All India Radio has raised awareness over 13 weeks, featuring discussions by ministers and department officials. Awareness campaigns conducted across schools, government institutions, and communities have reached over 5,75,349 partici-



Child marriage cases fluctuated, with 418 in 2021-22, 328 in 2022-23, and sharp rise to 719 in 2023-24

Government has implemented several awareness and support programs. The 24/7 Child Helpline (1098) remains crucial resource for immediate interventions

—Laxmi Hebbalkar, Women and Child Welfare Minister

pants through 697 programs statewide."

She said that district-level committees, including the Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Boards, and Special Juvenile Police Units, play vital roles in rehabilitating children in need of care or those in legal conflict. At the grassroots, women and child rights committees have been established in gram panchayats to enhance safety and address issues like child pregnancies.

Combating child pregnancies

"Following a government direc-

tive on September 6, specific responsibilities were assigned to various departments to prevent child pregnancies. Capacity-building training for officials and staff is ongoing, in collaboration with non-governmental organisations. Additionally, legal and emotional counselling is now available in every district to support child victims of sexual violence," she said.

Statistics under POCSO and Child Marriage Acts

According to the data, the number of cases under the POCSO Act has risen consistently, from 867 in

2021-22 to 1,240 in 2023-24. Child marriage cases have shown fluctuations, with 418 cases in 2021-22, a dip to 328 in 2022-23, and a steep increase to 719 cases in 2023-24.

Coordinated departmental efforts

"To address child marriage and abuse effectively, the Department of Women and Child Development has designated officials from various departments as Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPOs). These include officials from the Revenue, Labour, Education, Health and Family Welfare, Home Affairs, Rural Development, and Social Welfare departments. They are authorised under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, to take necessary actions," she added.

Govt school students have sporty day out

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A total of 22 teams from 12 government schools around Whitefield participated in a sports event organised by around 10 students and two teachers from each school joined the event on Saturday.

Each participant received a T-shirt and a participation certificate. The winning teams received winner's certificates, medals, individual trophies and new backpacks. The winning schools were also given a sporting kit comprising a football, a thrown ball, a Frisby and two skipping ropes each.

When children were assembled at the start line, the police officials addressed them and highlighted the dangers that lurk on the streets, including drug peddlers, child trafficking, thieves, and general crime.

"We wanted to encourage our government school children around the Whitefield area wherein we have set up around 60 smart classes, an opportunity to participate and experience the thrill and joy of running in this mega event," said Seema Rohan, President of Inner Wheel Club of Bangalore IT Corridor.

The organisers have appreciated Rotary Bangalore IT Corridor for giving IWCBITC this platform and arranging T-shirts, certificates, medals, and batons.

Sarala Menon, former President of the Inner Wheel Club of IT Corridor, said that it was most rewarding to see the joy on the chil-



Govt School children participating in sports

dren's faces. "It is not easy to run barefoot on the tarred road, but the children ran their hearts out," she said.

"I am very happy with the performance of our students. Our boy's team won the first prize while the girl's team got third prize," said Sekhar V, PE Teacher, Government Higher Primary School, Ramagondanahalli.

"Our boy's team won third prize. We will try for the first prize next year," said Komala, Headmistress of Govt Higher Primary School, Immadiahalli.

'Innocent youth falling prey to this menace'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

wiped off a family of three in Hassan. Srinivas (43), a driver who returned to Channarayapatna during the pandemic, struggled with unemployment and became obsessed with online rummy. Mounting losses led to heavy debts, borrowing from multiple lenders. Overwhelmed by creditor pressure, Srinivas confided in his wife, Swetha (36), a private school teacher. Unable to cope, the couple, along with their daughter Nagasree (13), took the devastating decision.

Congress MLA from Malavalli, PM Narendra Swamy, called online gambling a 'darkness' that was consuming the lives and savings of Karnataka's youth and their families. Shirahatti MLA Dr. Chandru

Lamani revealed that he had lost his friend Jagdish Halemane to suicide on December 1. Halemane took the step after incurring heavy financial losses from an online game. In his death note, he had urged for a ban on such games. Dr. Lamani strongly advocated for a ban on these games.

According to police data, during November, four cases of online betting were recorded and nine individuals were arrested. Apart from these, 432 cases of gambling were reported till October 30 this year. Despite government bans on third party websites, these operations continue to thrive and the numbers fail to give an exact picture of the damage caused.

In a recent operation, Parappana Agrahara Police dismantled a high-

In Nov, 4 online betting cases were recorded, leading to 9 arrests. By October 30, 432 gambling cases were reported despite government bans

tech gambling operation in a posh Electronics City apartment, arresting six individuals and seizing equipment worth 20 lakh, including 41 mobile phones, five laptops, and three Wi-Fi routers. The suspects operated gambling platforms for cricket betting, rummy, kabaddi, and casino games via apps like Khitedu365. Investigations revealed a sophisticated setup for large-scale

financial transactions. Two accomplices in this operation are still at large, and efforts are ongoing to track them. Those arrested were granted station bail as the probe into the racket continues.

Debate is on

Legislators like Yeshwantpur BJP MLA ST Somashekhar have repeatedly raised concerns over this issue. On Tuesday, he spoke about online rummy having become a source of financial and emotional turmoil for many families. Minister Parameshwara acknowledged the urgent need for legislative action. He noted that amendments to the Karnataka Police Act to ban online gambling were struck down by the High Court in 2022.

The Karnataka Police (Amendment) Act, 2000 (Central Act 21 of 2000) introduced amendments to Sections 78, 79, 80, 87, 114, 1280, and 176 concerning restrictions on online games. This amendment was challenged by online gaming organisations filed in the High Court. On February 14, 2022, the High Court quashed the government's amendment. The matter is now under review in the Supreme Court through Civil Appeal, which is currently pending.

Despite legal setbacks, Parameshwara assured the Assembly that the government is actively working to curb the problem. "We are not keeping quiet. Constant efforts are being made to address this issue," he stated.

SAVE OUR FORESTS

Koppal resident raises red flag over illegal tourism

Ministry, tiger conservation body get notice about 'dubious' activities going on at Blue Waterfall in Anshi Wildlife Range

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A resident of Koppal has sent notice to the Central Environment Ministry along with the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), principal secretary to the Government of Karnataka, and field director of Kali Tiger Reserve (KTR) regarding illegal tourism activities at Blue Waterfall in Anshi Wildlife Range of KTR.

The notice has been sent under Section 55(c) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act with the intention to file a complaint in the jurisdictional court against the illegal activity.

This provision in the Act empowers activists or citizens to pursue violations that have not been acted upon by government officials. Under this section, a notice can be sent to the authorities concerned. Moreover, if authorities fail to initiate action within 60 days of receiving the notice, the activist or citizen can file a complaint before the jurisdictional magistrate, who can then take cognisance and commence a criminal trial.

According to the complainant and local activists, although the Blue Waterfalls area is not mentioned in



Activists allege violation of WLPA, 1972, Forest Conservation Act, 1980, Indian Forest Act, 1927

Thousands of tourists visited the waterfalls, and many videos had gone viral in social media. The issue was brought to the notice of higher officials, but they denied any such activity —Complainant

the Ecotourism Chapter of the approved Tiger Conservation Plan of Dandeli-Anshi Tiger Reserve (2014-2024), a video from Karnataka Forest Department's social media handle in November 2022 shows the officials promoting it as a tourism spot.

"Thousands of tourists visited the waterfalls, and many videos had gone viral in social media. Apart from videos of forest department officials collecting entry fees from

the tourists, these videos also show a signboard put up along the Anshi-Kadra main road. The issue was brought to the notice of higher officials, but they denied any such activity," said the complainant.

Notably, NTCA has directed the Chief Wildlife Warden, Karnataka, to enquire regarding the complaint wherein it alleged that officials of Kali Project Tiger Reserve have destroyed the evidence of allowing illegal tourism at Blue Waterfalls in the Anshi Wildlife Range of core/critical tiger habitat of Kali Project Tiger Reserve.

Local activists allege that the Forest Department, through its official social media channel, had also shared a video of the waterfall stating that swimming is allowed. However, after objections, the video was removed from the site.

Locals say this is in defiance of comprehensive guidelines issued by the NTCA under Section 38 O(c) of

the WLPA, 1972, which strictly prohibits opening up new areas for tourism in core-critical tiger habitat.

It is also in violation of WLPA, 1972, Forest Conservation Act, 1980, Indian Forest Act, 1927, Karnataka Forest Act, 1963, allege activists.

They say that the promotion of tourism by the Kali Tiger Reserve Administration at the Blue Waterfalls area was well planned.

The notice sent demands a probe into illegal tourism in the core and critical tiger habitat.

"Provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 are the same for everyone, be it the public or the Forest Department. Action must be taken against NTCA officials of the Bangalore Regional Office for violating Section 52 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 as both the officials have completely failed to do the spot inspections and submit the reports even though they were aware of the violations," complainant said.

17,000 trees at risk in Tumakuru mining

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A wildlife conservationist has approached Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre regarding a proposed mining project near Bukkapatna Chinkara Wildlife Sanctuary in Tumakuru that will require the diversion of nearly 50 hectares of forest land and felling of over 17,000 trees.

The conservationist has requested the Minister to reject the proposal due to its proximity to Bukkapatna Chinkara Wildlife Sanctuary.

According to the application filed by the project proponent on the Central government's Parivesh website, while the 7.53 km of the proposed mining area is not part of any national park, wildlife sanctuary, biosphere reserve, tiger reserve, elephant

corridor, etc., it is located 7.70 km away from the Bukkapatna Chinkara Wildlife Sanctuary and falls within the eco-sensitive zone of the sanctuary.

In the letter written to the Minister, conservationist Giridhar Kulkarni highlighted that the proposed project may result in fragmentation of forest area due to the felling of more than 17,000 trees and loss of wildlife habitat. It may also interfere with watersheds, accelerate human-wildlife conflict, and lead to invasion by weeds and a decline in non-wood forest produce, which will threaten the livelihood of local communities.

Kulkarni has underlined that the proposed area is rich in flora and fauna diversity and houses wildlife such as leopard, sloth bear, wolf, pangolin, and also four-horned antelope, a Schedule-I species under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

"There is a significant cattle popu-



The forest is crucial fodder source for cattle

lation that uses forests as the main source of fodder. It is an important watershed area for the surrounding agriculture fields and perhaps one of the last remaining lung spaces in Tumakuru with dwindling forest cover. The project, if given a green signal, will result in the felling of 17,206 trees," said Kulkarni.

The letter also alleges that the pro-

posal appears to be an open cast mining and hence may include the use of explosives. "The impacts of mining go beyond extraction of ore and the dumping of tailings. Additional roads will have to be built through pristine forests and grasslands to provide access for earthmovers. One of the more serious consequences of mining may also be habitat fragmentation, leading to human-wildlife conflict, already a serious concern in the district," added Kulkarni.

As per the Parivesh portal, the project has received a recommendation letter from the Deputy Conservator of Forest, Tumakuru Forest Division of Karnataka Forest Department.

However, since the proposed project is located in the deemed Eco Sensitive Zone of Bukkapatna Sanctuary, experts say it will require wildlife clearance from the standing committee of the National Board for Wildlife as well.

Up for some jackfruit kabab?

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Bengaluru-based ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR) has come out with new research on frozen patties and kababs made from tender jackfruit, positioning the underutilised crop as a sustainable meat analogue. Known as "Arka Tender Jack," these products offer a preservative-free, plant-based alternative to traditional meat while leveraging jackfruit's unique texture and nutritional profile.

"Jackfruit is an incredible crop that has long been underutilised. Its tender, unripe form has a fibrous, meat-like texture that makes it ideal for creating plant-based alternatives. The Arka Tender Jack range not only caters to vegetarians and vegans but also appeals to health-conscious consumers," said Dr Preethi P, Scientist, Division of Post-Harvest Technology and Agricultural Engineering at IIHR.

Healthy and sustainable choice

Arka Tender Jack products are free from artificial preservatives. They are rich in protein, dietary fibre, and bioactive components. The products conform to Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) norms under the "Ready to Eat & Ready to Cook Products" category, ensuring high-quality standards.



Jackfruit kabas and patties

"These products provide a shelf life of up to 12 months. The technology behind them is cost-effective, with a benefit-cost ratio of 1.36:1, offering a viable business model for entrepreneurs in the plant-based food industry," Dr Preethi added.

Environmentally friendly

Jackfruit has a significantly lower environmental footprint compared to animal-based food production. "Jackfruit is nutritious and eco-friendly choice. Its cultivation requires minimal resources," explained Dr Preethi.

Culinary versatility

Arka Tender Jack products can be prepared using various methods such as grilling, frying, or baking, catering to diverse culinary preferences. Their neutral flavour allows them to absorb seasonings and spices effectively, mimicking the taste and mouthfeel of traditional meat.

No transfer without my approval, CM tells officials

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has directed all the top government officials not to transfer people in their respective departments, without his permission.

"It has been advised that since the

general transfer period is over, if it is necessary to transfer people in any department in administrative and public interest, the prior approval of the Chief Minister should be obtained," an administrative note

issued by the Chief Minister said.

If any transfers are made without obtaining prior approval, the Additional Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries, Secretaries and heads of departments concerned will be held directly responsible

and disciplinary action will be taken against them, he said.

It has been observed that files are being submitted repeatedly seeking ex-post facto approval in violation of the said directive, the CM added.

"Therefore, it has been clearly instructed to all the departmental Additional Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries, Secretaries to strictly follow the guidelines of the said circular," the note said.

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I, Shreyas Vishwanath
Kulkarni S/o Vishwanath
Kulkarni R/o #498, 5th
Cross, 9th Main
Rajarejeshwarinagar B'lore-
560098 have changed my name
to Shreyas Kulkarni

I, Saranya Korpana W/o
Srinivas Eppili R/o A387 3rd
Floor A Block GM Infinite E-
City B'lore-560100 have changed
my name to Saranya Eppili.

I, FAREEDA SHAIK ABDUL,
C/o Farooq S.A. R/at # 304, 3rd
floor, Golden line Apts 18/2-1,
2nd Main, A T Street, Yeshwan
thpura, Bangalore north Benga
luru-560022, have changed my
name to FAREEDA, vide
affidavit dt: 17.12.2024 before
notary A. Manjula, Bangalore.

I, Kulkarni Vishwanath
Tammaji S/o T.G Kulkarni R/o
#498, 5th Cross, 9th Main
Rajarejeshwarinagar B'lore-
560098 have changed my name
to Vishwanath Kulkarni.

I, Abubakar A H R/o #1490
23rd Cross 4th Main 7th Sector
Hsr Layout Bangalore - 560102
have changed my minor son's
name from Mohammed Suhail
A A to Muhammed Suhail A A
for all purposes.

I, MARIA SWAPNA F, R/a.
No.3 Sai Enclave Layout TC
Palya Hallahalli Bengaluru-49.
I have Changed my name to
MARIYA SWAPNA FRANCIS.
Vide affidavit, dated 16/12/2024
Sworn before Notary:
Gangaraju. B.N. Bangalore

I Mahima Srivastav D/O,
Arvind Prakash Srivastav R/o
Flat 501, Aditya Apartments,
139/3, 3rd Cross Road, Domlur,
Bangalore-560071 have changed
my name to Mahima Bhan
after marriage.

I (Subramaniam Chatakondu)
S/O (C.Rama Swamy) R/O of
(no 603 Flat no 5 3rd floor
Sneha sadan 15 A main
mathikere Blore-54) shall
henceforth be known as
(Subramanyam Chatakondu)
sworn before notary
(A.Manjula B.A. LLB) dated (11-
12-2024)

CHANGE OF NAME
We, I) RADHAKRISHNA,
M. S/o. Munivenkatara-
maiah, aged about 39 years,
2) SOWMYA.K. W/o.
Radhakrishna.M, aged about
33 years, both are R/at. No.3,
Ground Floor, 1st Main, 1
Cross, Near Mountain Super
Mart, Santosh Nagar, Attur Vil-
lage, Yelahanka, anka, Banga-
lore-560 064. We have change
our son name from LIKHIL
KRISHNA to LIKHIL.R for all
the purpose & same as sworn
before G DAYANANDA, Ad-
vocate & Notary, Bangalore
Dated: 09/10/2024.

tender & notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given
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ing distinctive nos.68059307
to 68059493 (both inclusive)
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The shares have been trans-
ferred to the Investor Edu-
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(IEPF) Authority. We, being
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shares transferred as per the
IEPF Rules. Any person hav-
ing any objection to the re-
credit of the Shares covered
in the said original share cer-
tificate(s) to the applicant/
claimant, is requested to
lodge his/her objection
thereto with the Company at
the above address or with
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LTD., P-22, Bondel Road, Kol-
kata-700 019, in writing,
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Lilly Joseph Flat No. 82,
Block 2 Prakruti Green
Vistas Edachira, Thrikka-
kara Ward 8 Kakkand
Ernakulam Kerala - 682030

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I Mohammed Tharik Sevatha
Pillai Abdul Rawoof S/O,
Abdul Rawoof R/o No.31 1st
Cross Gajendra Nagar Old
Bayapanahalli, Maruthi Seva
Nagar Post, Bengaluru - 560033
have changed my name to
Mohamed Tharik
Abdulrawoof.

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I Mohammed Tharik Sevatha
Pillai Abdul Rawoof S/O,
Abdul Rawoof R/o No.31 1st
Cross Gajendra Nagar Old
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Nagar Post, Bengaluru - 560033
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Khan, residing at
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(Thimmasandra) Village, Chik-
kamuduvadi Post, Kanakapura
Hobli & Taluk, Ramanagara
District, stating
that, I have lost the
Original Deed of Property
No.152900204300800437
of ABM Layout,
Devarakaggalhalli, Harohalli
Hobli & Taluk and
According Gram Panchayat
Khata No.422/436/437
(Registration No.2204/1996-97,
Book No.-1 Page 54-56 Dated:
04.09.1996), the above said
Original Deed was
accidentally lost at
Kanakapura bustand on
13.12.2024. I have lodged a
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MIND, BODY & HEART



All you need to know about...

BP reading

For an accurate picture

More often than not, patients and even nurses and doctors are skipping steps that help paint an accurate portrait of someone's blood pressure -- how someone sits and positions their arm, whether they just had a cup of joe or chitchat with their practitioner during the measurement, and other factors can produce readings that are higher or lower than normal blood pressure.

Do it correctly

"To really make a dent at improving people's cardiovascular health, we need to screen and treat people for hypertension, but we need to do it correctly," Tammy Brady, a pediatric nephrologist at the Johns Hopkins Children's Center said.

Too critical

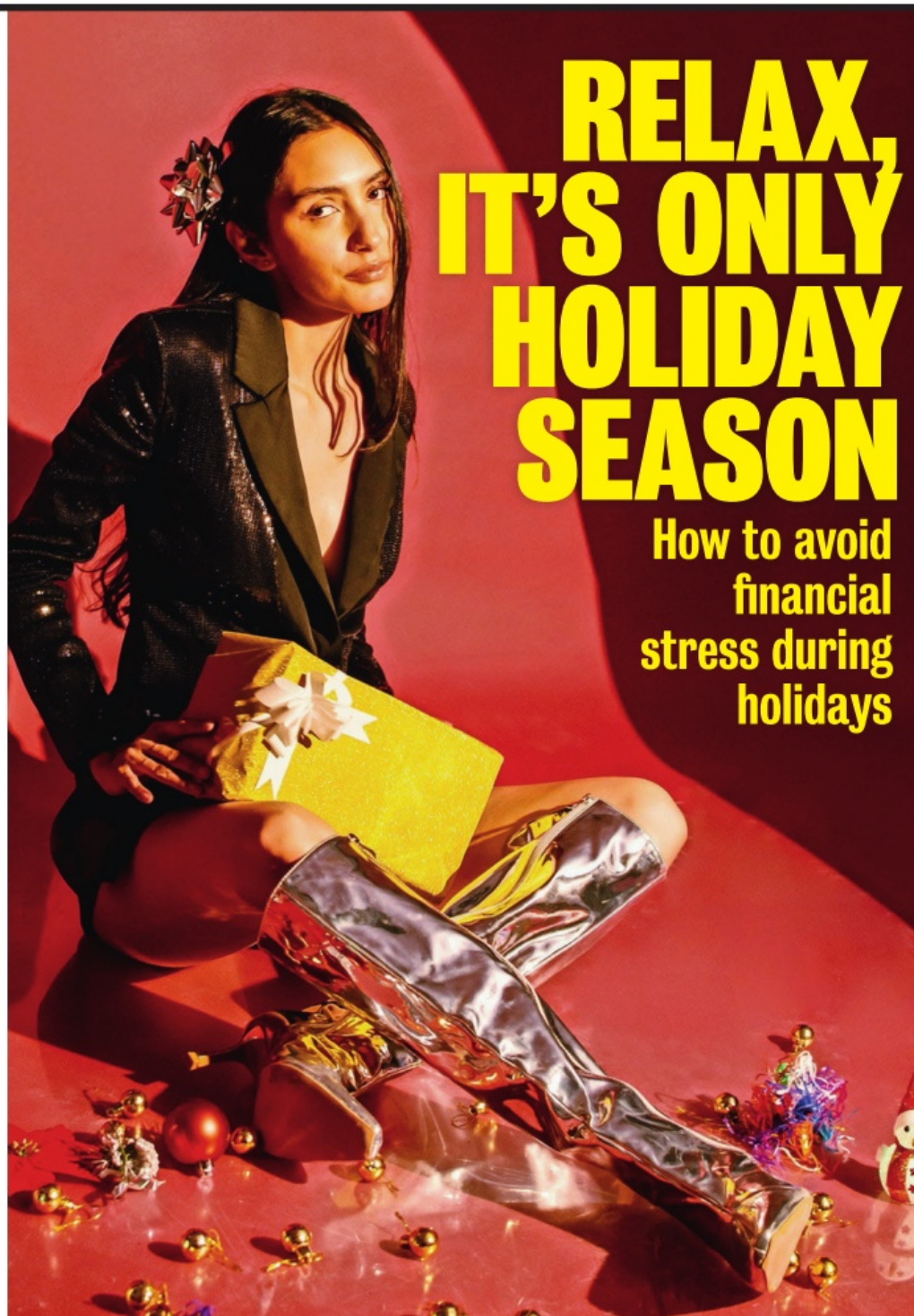
"Getting the right reading is important for preventing heart attacks, strokes and other potentially fatal conditions," noted the newspaper, Xinhua news agency reported.

How to do it right?

What does it take to get the reading right? The patient should sit with both feet on the ground, legs uncrossed, back straight and your arm supported on a table or other surface, according to guidelines from the American Heart Association and other organisations. "A cuff should be positioned over your bare arm at the level of your heart. You shouldn't talk or scroll on your phone while it is being measured, and your bladder should be empty. And you should take your blood pressure at least a couple of times in a sitting," added the report.

Lowering BP

Meanwhile, last month, a research published by experts from an international academic collaboration led by the University of Sydney and University College London, had suggested that doing five minutes of physical activity, such as walking uphill or stair climbing every day may help to lower blood pressure. —IANS



RELAX, IT'S ONLY HOLIDAY SEASON

How to avoid financial stress during holidays

The holidays are meant to be a time of celebration with family and friends. But they can also bring pressure to spend money on gifts, gatherings and plane tickets home, exacerbated by brand emails, social media influencers and family expectations.

With credit card debt rising and prices for many items still high due to inflation, overspending during the holiday season can add to the financial stress many Americans are already experiencing, said Dr. Marketa Wills, CEO and medical director of the American Psychiatric Association.

"The idea that one is on the hook for buying gifts for all their friends and families adds an enormous amount of stress on someone trying to have a perfect holiday," Wills said.

But there are ways to get through the holidays without spending more than you can afford. From setting expectations with your family to making a budget to gifting experiences rather than things, here are expert recommendations to avoid financial stress this holiday season:

To avoid overspending on gifts for family and friends, set a specific goal, said Matt Watson, CEO of Origin, a financial planning app. Ask yourself what your spending limit is before you start shopping.

"People get into 'justification mode' where you have a general sense of what you want to

spend but then you see this really nice thing and all of the sudden you've done that a few times and you spend twice as much as you thought you might," Watson said.

Watson also recommends that you include in your budget calculations how much you'll pay for taxes and shipping.

In many families, the holidays mean going all out with gift-giving. But this can quickly become stressful if your finances make it hard to keep up. Managing expectations is key.

"You can avoid feeling inadequate, or like you're not doing a good job, by having an honest conversation about where your finances are," Watson said.

Being open about your money can be difficult, but sharing if you are struggling with debt or other financial issues can help family and friends understand that they should prioritize low-cost gifts or activities.

Planning your holiday shopping ahead of time can make it easier to stick to your budget.

"When people feel rushed, oftentimes they're going to buy more expensive things," said Watson, who also pointed out that shipping costs increase closer to Christmas.

As you budget for the holidays, make a list of the items you want

to purchase and slowly start buying them. This way, you divide your costs among several paychecks and avoid relying on credit for last-minute expenses.

Wills recommends that people opt for homemade gifts if they want to show appreciation for their loved ones without overspending. Homemade gifts don't always have to be crafts, they can also be actions.

"I will do babysitting for you, I will cook a meal for you," Wills said. "Those kinds of things take a financial pressure off and make for a more joyous holiday season."

In recent years, shopping expert Trae Bodge has noticed that younger people prefer to gift each other experiences rather than items. She recommends finding affordable, fun activities to do with your loved ones.

Examples include going ice skating, hiking or hosting a potluck. You could also gift a photoshoot or framed pictures or digital albums to commemorate happy experiences.

Expectations or traditions you grew up with, such as buying expensive gifts for every member of your extended family, can cause stress during the holidays. This is what Bodge refers to as "keeping up with the Joneses," which refers to trying to keep up with the expectations of other people rather than what is realistic for you to spend.

"Sometimes you may have a family member that is very financially well-off and they love to treat you to big, extravagant things. If you're not in that same financial position, you should not feel compelled to return the favor," Bodge said.

When creating your own new traditions, Watson recommends sharing the financial goals you have, such as saving for a house or paying off debt. This will help your loved ones understand why you're looking to limit expenses during the holidays.

Wills also recommends cutting costs by being selective with your expenses. For example, when it comes to hosting, even having a small group of people can be very expensive if you're expected to pay for everything. If you're in this situation, you could propose that everyone brings a dish.

"Think about having a potluck meal for the holiday. Have everybody bring something to the event to help share the cost," she said.

If you are having financial difficulties, it can help to talk about it with your family and friends.

"Sharing about stress can in and of itself be therapeutic for the individual who may be having concerns for that during the holiday season," Wills said.

Making room to listen to your loved ones' feelings is equally important, she said.

And if the holidays are a tough time for you, Wills recommended that you prioritize your mental health and good habits such as resting well and exercising.

It's the season where social events are happening every weekend but if they are causing you too much financial stress or hurting your mental health, it's okay to be selective.

Additionally, if you start feeling uncomfortable about certain conversations with your family, Wills recommends you take some time for yourself by taking a walk or removing yourself from the conversation. —AP

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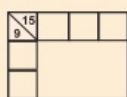
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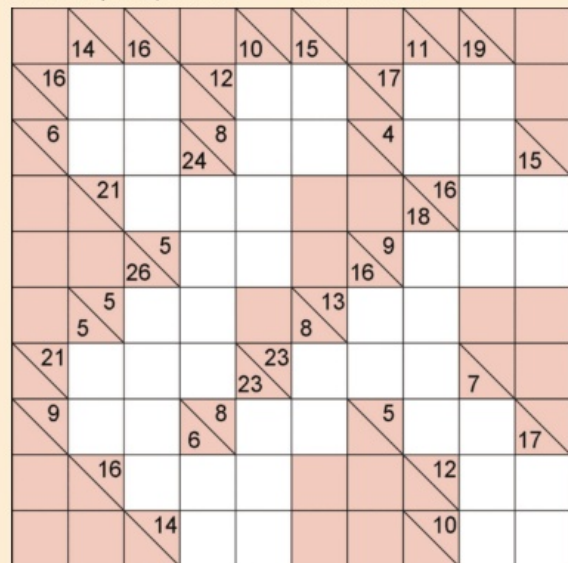
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

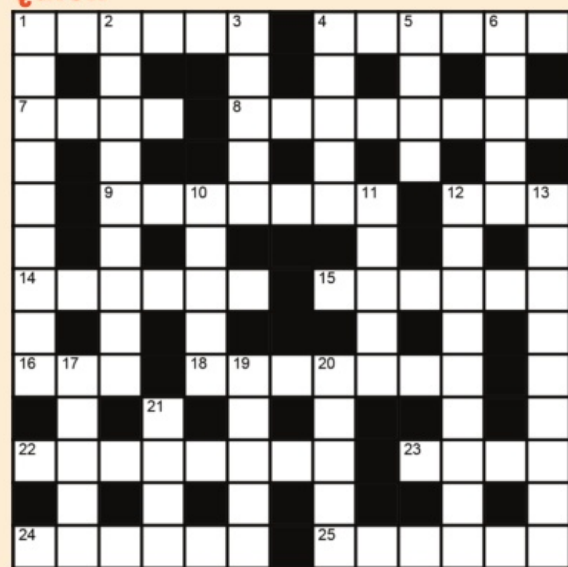


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

- 1 Take place (6)
- 4 Takes some liquid as food (6)
- 7 Curb, check (4)
- 8 Turn a _____ to : ignore or overlook completely? (5,3)
- 9 Chilling or freezing (7)
- 12 Append or join (3)
- 14 Alternative (6)
- 15 Smartly fashionable (6)
- 16 Century in cricket (3)
- 18 More spacious (7)
- 22 More powerful (8)
- 23 Indian oil lamp (4)
- 24 Voiced (6)
- 25 Hunting dogs (6)

DOWN

- 1 Residential area located between Hosur Road and Sarjapur Road (3,6)
- 2 University in New Jersey (9)
- 3 Prize-giving Swedish chemist (5)
- 4 Condescend (5)
- 5 Our country, as a prefix (4)
- 6 _____ in: typed (5)
- 10 Smell (5)
- 11 Very clever people (5)
- 12 Slur (9)
- 13 Reveries (9)
- 17 In No. 1 position (2,3)
- 19 Church instrument (5)
- 20 Month of the year (5)
- 21 Ridicule (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: W EQUALS U
P GOSRXAPCHAOC AO P
YMJJEQ QXE POLO SEW P
JEC EY MVGMFOAZM IWMO-
CAEFO SEWH QAYM POLO YEH
FECXAFK.



Linemaro

Can I interrupt your reverie?



Mindchow

A friend walks in when everyone else walks out



Joke of the day

A: Excuse me. Do you know the way to the zoo?
B: No, I'm sorry, I don't.
A: Well, it's two blocks this way, then one block to the left.

Loop

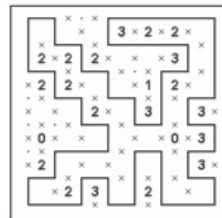
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

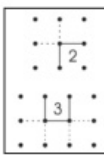
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

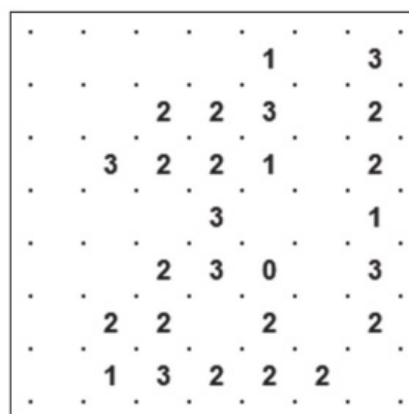
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



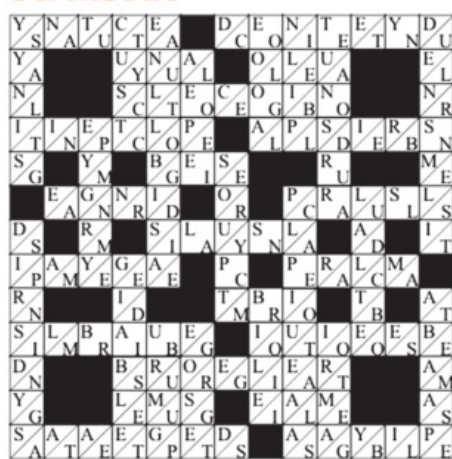
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

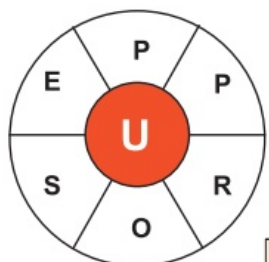
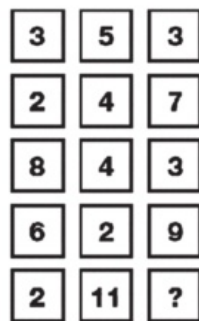
- 1 Sharp; 6 Ratel;
- 7 Sitar; 8 But HM;
- 9 Boyos

DOWN

- 1 Shy at; 2 Loath;
- 3 Bu err; 4 Or imp;
- 5 Basts

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark to complete the puzzle?



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

11 Average; 13 Good; 15 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy

$\square \square \square \square = 10$

$\square \square \square \square = 3$

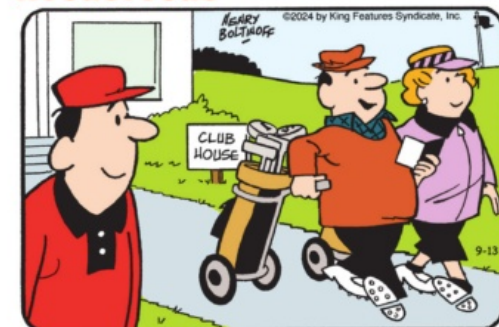
$\square \square \square \square = 27$

$\square \square \square \square = 3$

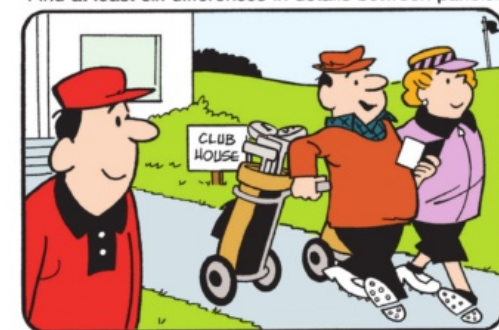
$\square \square \square \square = 27$

$\square \square \square \square = 27$

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Woman's arm is not showing. 2. Window is smaller. 3. Woman's leg is longer. 4. Man is thinner. 5. Walkway is narrower. 6. Flag stick is moved.

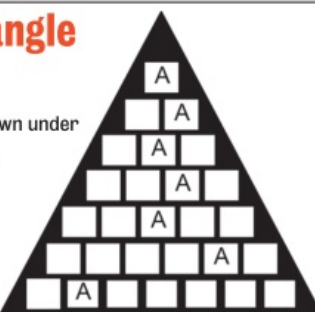
Riddler

P is to L. M is to OK. Hence, D is to _____

Alpha triangle

- 1 First letter
- 2 Dad
- 3 Buddy
- 4 Gemstone from down under
- 5 Socrates' student
- 6 Imposing entrance
- 7 Polices

Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be



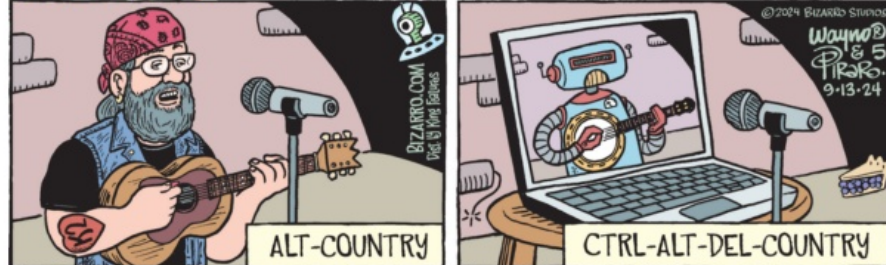
made at each step answering to the clue given.

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil



Hart of the city



Crankshaft



Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

Today, you may perform your best at the office. You are likely to build a good bond with your boss, possibly earning new responsibilities or even a promotion. Chronic health issues may be cured. You may also receive good incentives for your work. Disputes with siblings could be resolved. Job seekers might find new opportunities.



Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23

Today, you may spend time attending family gatherings. Being polite with people around you will enhance your image among relatives and friends. You might spend money on artefacts and other items to boost your social status. Good news from a close relative could brighten your day.



Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22

Today, you may find yourself busy at work. Mental fatigue might prevent you from spending quality time with your family. With blessings from elders, job seekers could secure high-ranking positions, and managers might be promoted to top management roles. Rewards and recognition could increase your status, and you are likely to excel professionally.



Taurus Apr 21 - May 20

Today, life may feel challenging, and you might seek advice from elders to navigate the situation. Patience is essential. Concerns about your children's education could make you upset; you may plan a short trip related to their academics. Investors should avoid speculation before making any decisions.



Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23

Happiness surrounds you today, helping you enjoy daily tasks. Your energy may enable you to make challenging decisions, increasing profits in the future. You may go on a short work-related trip. Subordinates and colleagues are likely to support you to complete tasks on time. Students may find themselves more focused on studies. It's advised to maintain healthy eating habits to avoid stomach issues.



Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20

Today, you may feel happy and patient, which could reflect in your efficient work approach. Tasks may be completed effectively. A visit to a religious place might be planned, and you may donate to a religious organisation or charity. Lovebirds might build trust in their relationship, and you may gain control over your opponents.



Gemini May 21 - Jun 21

Today, you might feel dissatisfied and disappointed due to the lack of results from your hard work. It is advised to carefully read documents before signing any new contracts. Investments in assets may occur, but trust your intuition when deciding on fixed assets.



Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22

Today, you may feel dull, and sleeplessness could impact your mental and physical health. Concerns about a family member's health might also upset you. Spending on unimportant items could affect your savings. You are advised to be cautious of conspiracies and keep an eye on opponents.



Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

Today, you may feel unhappy and dull, affecting your work and causing delays in projects. This might impact your professional and domestic reputation. It's advised to avoid adventurous activities or rash driving. Lovebirds may break up. Job seekers could face disappointment in their search.



Cancer Jun 22 - July 23

Today, you may be busy with social gatherings and family occasions, which could expand your network. You may also go on a short work-related trip. Disputes with siblings may be resolved. Your subordinates are likely to cooperate, helping you complete a difficult project. Confidence may be high, but it's advised to remain patient during interactions.



Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22

Today, you may start the day feeling happy. At work, quick decisions could bring benefits in the near future. A new source of income may boost your savings. With the help of your partner, investing in a business venture might prove profitable. Improved understanding with your spouse could bring harmony to domestic life.

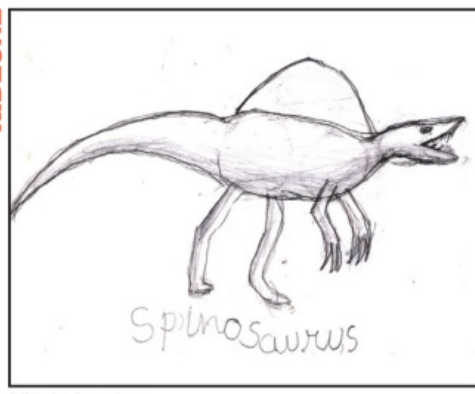


Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

Today, you may feel positive vibrations around you, and things may seem under control. You might plan to start a new business partnership and consider long-distance travel. Trust with your spouse may strengthen, bringing harmony to your domestic life.



KIDZONE



Adhithv, Bengaluru

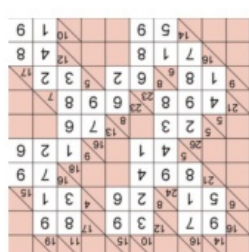


Sanjanna, Bengaluru

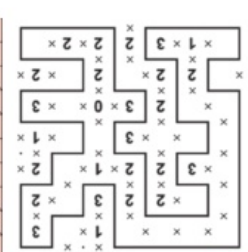
Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;

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SOLUTIONS



KAKURO



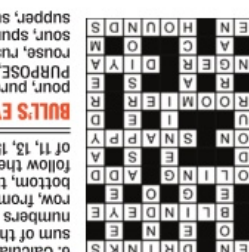
LOOP



ALPHA



SUDOKU



MENSA PUZZLE



QUICK



STRIKE OUT



QUOTE UNQUOTE



Save nature

The film Rama is set to join the list of movies made to create awareness on the environment among the audiences. Saalumarada Thimmakka unveiled the poster of the movie recently.

Wesley Brown is helming the movie and its post-production works are in progress.

"Rama is a children's movie. It aims to create awareness among the school children on the environment. The movie emphasises the need to protect and preserve forests. It also encourages children to plant saplings and highlights the importance of oxygen for the survival of human beings," said Wesley Brown.

The director thanked Saalumarada Thimmakka for releasing the poster and said she was very happy when he told her what the movie hopes to achieve. "She told us that she planted saplings and nurtured trees. She appreciated me for helming this movie," the director said.

Nischal BM has bankrolled the movie under the Nikkinash Creations banner in association with NL Mahesh, Nevi Manju, and

Wesley Brown. "We are making arrangements to release this movie in January. I embarked on this project because not many children's movies are being made in Kannada," the director said, adding that the movie's shooting was held for 20 days at Avalaguppe near Nelamangala.

The movie features around 12 child artistes apart from Nela Narendra Babu, Devi Manju, Bhavana Chandrasekhar, and Rohini.



Oscar snub: 'Disappointed'



Kiran Rao's Laapataa Ladies, India's official entry for the 2025 Oscars in the Best Foreign Language Film category, didn't make it. The Academy recently revealed the top 10 films for the 97th Oscars, but Laapataa Ladies wasn't included.

Chhaya, who played an important role in the film, responded to the news and said she wanted to give director Kiran Rao some time to process it. In an interview with News 18, the actress shared her disappointment, calling the news disheartening as they had high hopes for the film. Despite the setback, she

stayed optimistic, vowing to keep working hard on future projects and aiming to come back stronger in the Oscars race.

The actress also mentioned that she hasn't spoken to Kiran Rao yet, saying, "I want to give her some time. She had just returned to India from the USA, where she had been for about a month."

Chhaya revealed that she and Kiran Rao had met just three days ago at an event, feeling hopeful and excited about their Oscar chances. They were confident about going far in the competition. She also expressed their wish for All We Imagine As Light to receive an Oscar nomination.

—ETimes

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